

NAME

tar – manual page for tar 1.13

SYNOPSIS

tar [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

GNU ‘tar’ saves many files together into a single tape or disk archive, and can restore individual files from the archive.

If a long option shows an argument as mandatory, then it is mandatory for the equivalent short option also. Similarly for optional arguments.

Main operation mode:

- t, --list**
list the contents of an archive
- x, --extract, --get**
extract files from an archive
- c, --create**
create a new archive
- d, --diff, --compare**
find differences between archive and file system
- r, --append**
append files to the end of an archive
- u, --update**
only append files newer than copy in archive
- A, --catenate**
append tar files to an archive
- concatenate**
same as **-A**
- delete**
delete from the archive (not on mag tapes!)

Operation modifiers:

- W, --verify**
attempt to verify the archive after writing it
- remove-files**
remove files after adding them to the archive
- k, --keep-old-files**
don't overwrite existing files when extracting
- U, --unlink-first**
remove each file prior to extracting over it
- recursive-unlink**
empty hierarchies prior to extracting directory
- S, --sparse**
handle sparse files efficiently
- O, --to-stdout**
extract files to standard output
- G, --incremental**
handle old GNU-format incremental backup
- g, --listed-incremental**
handle new GNU-format incremental backup

--ignore-failed-read
do not exit with nonzero on unreadable files

Handling of file attributes:

--owner=NAME
force NAME as owner for added files

--group=NAME
force NAME as group for added files

--mode=CHANGES
force (symbolic) mode CHANGES for added files

--atime-preserve
don't change access times on dumped files

-m, --modification-time
don't extract file modified time

--same-owner
try extracting files with the same ownership

--numeric-owner
always use numbers for user/group names

-p, --same-permissions
extract all protection information

--preserve-permissions
same as **-p**

-s, --same-order
sort names to extract to match archive

--preserve-order
same as **-s**

--preserve
same as both **-p** and **-s**

Device selection and switching:

-f, --file=ARCHIVE
use archive file or device ARCHIVE

--force-local
archive file is local even if has a colon

--rsh-command=COMMAND
use remote COMMAND instead of rsh

-[0-7][lmh]
specify drive and density

-M, --multi-volume
create/list/extract multi-volume archive

-L, --tape-length=NUM
change tape after writing NUM x 1024 bytes

-F, --info-script=FILE
run script at end of each tape (implies **-M**)

--new-volume-script=FILE
same as **-F FILE**

--volno-file=FILE
use/update the volume number in FILE

Device blocking:

-b, --blocking-factor=BLOCKS
BLOCKS x 512 bytes per record

- record-size=SIZE**
SIZE bytes per record, multiple of 512
- i, --ignore-zeros**
ignore zeroed blocks in archive (means EOF)
- B, --read-full-records**
reblock as we read (for 4.2BSD pipes)

Archive format selection:

- V, --label=NAME**
create archive with volume name NAME
- PATTERN**
at list/extract time, a globbing PATTERN
- o, --old-archive, --portability**
write a V7 format archive
- posix**
write a POSIX conformant archive
- z, --gzip, --ungzip**
filter the archive through gzip
- Z, --compress, --uncompress**
filter the archive through compress
- use-compress-program=PROG**
filter through PROG (must accept **-d**)

Local file selection:

- C, --directory=DIR**
change to directory DIR
- T, --files-from=NAME**
get names to extract or create from file NAME
- null -T** reads null-terminated names, disable **-C**
- exclude=PATTERN**
exclude files, given as a globbing PATTERN
- X, --exclude-from=FILE**
exclude globbing patterns listed in FILE
- P, --absolute-names**
don't strip leading '/'s from file names
- h, --dereference**
dump instead the files symlinks point to
- no-recursion**
avoid descending automatically in directories
- l, --one-file-system**
stay in local file system when creating archive
- K, --starting-file=NAME**
begin at file NAME in the archive
- N, --newer=DATE**
only store files newer than DATE
- newer-mtime**
compare date and time when data changed only
- after-date=DATE**
same as **-N**

- backup[=*CONTROL*]**
backup before removal, choose version control
- suffix=*SUFFIX***
backup before removal, override usual suffix

Informative output:

- help** print this help, then exit
- version**
print tar program version number, then exit
- v, --verbose**
verbosely list files processed
- checkpoint**
print directory names while reading the archive
- totals**
print total bytes written while creating archive
- R, --block-number**
show block number within archive with each message
- w, --interactive**
ask for confirmation for every action
- confirmation**
same as **-w**

The backup suffix is ‘~’, unless set with **--suffix** or `SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX`. The version control may be set with **--backup** or `VERSION_CONTROL`, values are:

- t, numbered
make numbered backups
- nil, existing
numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise
- never, simple
always make simple backups

GNU tar cannot read nor produce ‘--posix’ archives. If `POSIXLY_CORRECT` is set in the environment, GNU extensions are disallowed with ‘--posix’. Support for POSIX is only partially implemented, don’t count on it yet. `ARCHIVE` may be `FILE`, `HOST:FILE` or `USER@HOST:FILE`; and `FILE` may be a file or a device. *This* ‘tar’ defaults to ‘-f- **-b20**’.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <tar-bugs@gnu.org>.

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SEE ALSO

The full documentation for **tar** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **tar** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info tar

should give you access to the complete manual.